

# MINUTES

## Fairfax County School Board Burkholder Administrative Center

Work Session No. 43/**Instruction, Special Services, & Youth Development**

April 4, 2005

### MEETING OPENING

#### **43.01 Call to Order and Announcements**

Instruction, Special Services, & Youth Development Committee Chairman Catherine Belter convened the meeting in public session at 11:05 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Catherine Belter (Springfield)

Brad Center (Lee; absent)

Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill; absent)

Stephen M. Hunt (At Large)

Kaye Kory (Mason)

Ilryong Moon (At Large)

Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence; absent)

Janet S. Oleszek (At Large; arr: 11:28am)

Kathy Smith (Sully)

Daniel G. Storck (Mount Vernon; arr: 12:18pm)

Jane Strauss(Dranesville)

Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Division Superintendent Jack Dale; Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger; Clerk of the Board Pam Goddard; Administrative Assistant Madge Artley; Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Ann Monday; Assistant Superintendent of Special Services Alice Farling; Special Programs Administrator for FLE and AVID Liz Payne; and certain other individuals. Student Representative to the School Board Ian Hurdle was absent.

### DISCUSSION

#### **43.02 Family Life Education Curriculum Advisory Committee (FLECAC) Recommendations (Exhibit A)**

- FLECAC had recommended approval of videos for special Mental Health instruction in grades 7 and 8, and Human Growth and Development Instruction and Boardmaker Picture Index Sexuality pictures for teacher use for Category B special education grades 5 through 12;
- principals had option to use speakers and programs approved for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug use prevention education;
- recommendation to use Virginia Department of Health-produced pamphlets and booklets regarding sexually transmitted diseases; video to also be used for 9<sup>th</sup> grade Biology regarding HIV;
- important to have materials available for adult and adult/ESOL students;
- concerns raised about presentation of abstinence issue and information presented as to consequences of certain behaviors; and
- parents continued to have the option to “opt out” of these lessons.

#### **43.03 ESOL Parent Meeting Recommendations (Exhibit B)**

- English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Parent Meeting was held on May 1, 2004, had resulted in recommendations and comments;

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- major recommendations to conduct more ESOL parent meetings, provide more translation services, provide more bilingual-bicultural parent liaisons for schools and offices, and improve communication with ESOL parents;
- parents requested meetings by pyramid with easy access to transportation;
- positive comments made regarding schools' welcoming environment, resources available, educational programs, teachers, and communication (web site, etc);
- comments were made regarding need for more information about special program opportunities such as Young Scholars and International Baccalaureate programs;
- increased staffing recommended in Language Services and Student Registration Services with increased awareness of availability of these services;
- recommended increased summer school and adult education ESOL program offerings and after-school and extracurricular programs for students;
- the Office of Equity and Compliance continued to provide information to schools and offices on issues related to cultural sensitivity and religious observance;
- Channel 21 showed "In Other Words" program in five languages; FCPS Hot Line provided messages in three languages, while FCPS web site offered information in seven languages;
- major concerns for all parents were graduation requirements and NCLB impact; staff to report how information would be distributed to target ESOL parents;
- recent purchase of 100 headsets with six microphones to be used by six different language interpreters for simultaneous translations;
- DIT to explore use of languages in opening screen of Blackboard program for homework assignments; and
- suggestion to review technology system to see where technology could help to better communicate with ESOL parents and students.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12.32 p.m.